

Bike to Work Day, p.7



Artists Open Studio, p.12



PHOTO BY JOELLEN SARFF

On Tuesday, May 25, marchers move past the Community Center in the vigil to stop violence.

## City's Maglev DEIS Review Focuses on Inflated Benefits

by Pat Scully

The City of Greenbelt filed its comments on Monday, May 24, on the Baltimore-Washington SCMaglev Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Greenbelt's comments, which were endorsed by the City of College Park and the Town of Landover Hills, uncovered 222 pages worth of errors and omissions in the DEIS. Chief among these is that the project's ridership estimates and related projections are grossly over-inflated, leading to further inflation of estimated congestion relief and projected revenues. These fundamental flaws are apparent despite the fact that the

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) failed to provide key information to the public, including the project's ridership modeling reports, which are the foundation for much of the information in the DEIS.

Norman Marshall, president and founder of Smart Mobility, Inc., who assisted Greenbelt with its review, states, "The supposed congestion relief for non-SCMaglev travelers will not materialize. Instead, construction of the SCMaglev will create a two-tier system with a fast ride for the

See **MAGLEV**, page 9

## April 26 City Council Meeting Covers Budget, Runs Late

by Kathleen Gallagher

As previously reported, at its April 26 regular meeting the Greenbelt City Council took action on two proposed resolutions that were introduced for second reading. If it is not petitioned to referendum by the voters, one of these resolutions will convert the city's Absentee Voting program into a full-fledged Mail-in Voting program. It will continue to serve the needs of voters who have used Absentee Voting, but it is hoped that it will bring in new voters as well. In-person voting on election day and Early Voting

in the weeks preceding will continue to be available.

The other resolution, to establish a 21-member commission to study and develop possibilities for local reparations for Black residents of Greenbelt, was not supported in its present form. Opinion was that it was not sufficiently defined as presented and should not move forward without public input. Councilmember Edward Putens moved to place it on a referendum, but Mayor Colin Byrd opposed putting a civil rights matter up for a vote.

### Budget Public Hearings

The first of two required public hearings on the 2022 city budget was also held that night, but no residents asked to comment. The second public hearing is scheduled to be held during the May 24 regular meeting after the budget worksessions have been completed. The budget is

See **COUNCIL**, page 2



PHOTO BY JENNIFER STERLING

The Greenbelt Dance Studio Ballet Ensemble performs in "Stars and Stripes Forever." See story, page 12.

## Challengers Sweep GHI Board Election in Record Turnout

by Tom Jones

With exceptionally high voter turnout at the 2021 annual Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) election, members voted for generational change on a scale the cooperative hasn't seen in decades. None of the five members of the board of directors elected two years ago will remain in office after Thursday, May 20, when the new board is seated. This is in sharp contrast to recent board elections, which have been uncontested since 2017.

GHI has nine directors, elected to staggered two-year terms: five in odd years and four in even years. Earlier this year, concurrent with completion of GHI's \$21 million Homes Improvement Program, three directors announced they were not running again. These included current Vice-President Steve Skolnik and board member Sue Ready, both former presidents. In March 2021, Director Anna Socrates also resigned, effective immediately. After advertising the vacant seat,

the board received an application from only one member: Jason Luly, who was appointed to an abbreviated term starting March 18.

Luly was the only one of five incumbent directors re-elected in this year's May 13-14

See **GHI**, page 8

### What Goes On

**Thursday, May 27**  
7 p.m. Town Hall: Gun Violence Prevention  
**Monday, May 31**  
Memorial Day Holiday  
**Wednesday, June 2**  
8 p.m. City Council Worksession: Advisory Group Chairs

All meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at [greenbeltdmd.gov](http://greenbeltdmd.gov) for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.

## Chris Haley's Film on Unmarked Slave Graves Has Local Origins

by Kyla Hanington

There didn't seem to be a better place to walk with Chris Haley and to talk about his powerful new film *Unmarked* than among Greenbelt's own unmarked stones at the historic Turner Cemetery. We met there late one Sunday afternoon to talk about the documentary, which explores the search for the burial places of enslaved people and the critical efforts being made to preserve and to honor those graves. The 40-minute film looks particularly at efforts being made in Virginia as well as at the site of the former Belvoir Plantation in Crownsville, Md.

"How can we forge ahead without remembering that this country enslaved its own people?" the film asks as it reminds us, in the words of Dr. Lynn Rainville, that those people held in slavery "are founders."

"They deserve honor," Reverend Michelle Thomas says in the film. "To honor their burial sites is to honor their lives, is to honor their work and is to honor their immense, foundational contribu-

tions," said Thomas.

"There's a perception that slavery was in the Deep South," Haley explained to me as we walked, describing how occasionally people will express surprise to learn there was slavery locally. "It's a misnomer to excuse Mary-

land from the reality of its history." Standing on the site of the former Turner plantation it was impossible not to feel the heavy weight of Maryland's history.

Although Haley does not live

See **HALEY**, page 6



PHOTO BY KYLA HANINGTON

Chris Haley examines a stone in the historic Turner Cemetery.



# Letters to the Editor

## Get It Straight

The first thing I want to say is I oppose the building of the maglev. When I drove into the city, I was appalled by the banner that appeared. NO BUILD MAGLEV sounds like a 3-year-old. STOP MAGLEV. DON'T build MAGLEV. Lots of ways to communicate this message. Who's going to think this message is serious?

Judith Ott

Editor's Note: "No Build" is one of the alternatives considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the SCMaglev Project.

## Another Postal Story

On April 26 I took our state and federal taxes to the Greenbelt Post Office so I could give them directly to a clerk as there have been so many problems with theft of mail in Greenbelt. Instead of paying \$1.50 to mail the tax forms to Annapolis, I paid \$7.70 so I could track them. I was told they would arrive in Annapolis the next day. Then, instead of paying \$1.90 to mail the federal taxes to Utah, I paid \$9.90 so that I could also track that envelope. I was told it would take

five days to get there.

Three days later I went online to check the status. The federal taxes arrived in Utah the next day. The Maryland taxes were in transit, "arriving late." On May 12, I went back to the post office to speak to a live person and she checked. They were still at the "plant," whatever that is. She emailed the "plant" and took my contact information and told me if she heard anything she would contact me.

I have not heard anything. As of today, Saturday, May 22, the envelope is still in transit, arriving late. The next week after I mailed my tax envelopes, the News Review wrote an article about postal problems and suggested that people in Greenbelt mail letters in boxes in other locations or go to a post office in another location. I wish I had waited. I am sure this is a problem that others are having with getting their taxes to the correct place too.

Betty Sonneveldt



# COUNCIL continued from page 1

scheduled for adoption at the regular council meeting on Monday, June 7.

In addition, the mayor made two presentations at the beginning of the meeting. Charise Liggins, the city economic development coordinator, accepted a proclamation designating May as Small Business Appreciation Week. City Treasurer Bertha Gaymon accepted the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the city. This award is the highest recognition for governmental budgeting.

## Goddard Plans

NASA has developed draft master and transportation plans for the Greenbelt campus of Goddard, which were referred to the city by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC). The plans cover a 20-year time period and potentially include the demolition, construction and renovation of many buildings, including options for excess buildings and land areas as well as divesting of land and buildings.

Community Planner Molly Porter had prepared a detailed memorandum of comment on the plans, which councilmembers generally supported. Planning Director Terri Hruby said they would develop a letter to the NCPC based on the memorandum and provide it to council in time to meet a May 7 deadline.

## Monthly Crime Stats

At Byrd's request, a resolution was introduced for first reading that would require council to hold a public hearing at the first regular meeting of each month to review monthly crime statistics. His goals are to have more complete information available on a frequent basis and to provide an opportunity for public comment.

Councilmember Judith Davis requested that before second reading, councilmembers should receive an estimate on how much staff time the plan would require.

## Mandan Basketball Court

The mayor had raised this subject and said he would like to see the rims at the basketball court put back up. Councilmember Emmett Jordan said that while he had concerns, he too would like to see the court open again, with the understanding that, if there were problems, the matter would be taken up promptly. He added that he regretted that this matter had to come to the city council for resolution at all. Other councilmembers who recalled the problems created at the site earlier and the strong opposition from nearby homeowners were less enthused.

Davis stated a list of conditions that should apply if the court were opened again, and she recommended starting gradually with a half court and one rim. She said that when they went through this before, there was to be a sign posted giving rules and the hours the court would be closed and there would be visibility into the area, including no parking along the street in front

## City Notes

Public Works illuminated the newly cleaned Mother and Child Statue. Street Maintenance/Special Details provided tents for GAIL's Produce Distribution and installed vaccination signs citywide.

Animal Control investigators discovered 61 cats in a residence. The shelter currently hosts three dogs, three cats, eight kittens and a rabbit.

Refuse/Recycling collected 32.22 tons of refuse and 10.52 tons of recyclables and Horticulture/Parks acquired four memorial trees.

Sustainability/Environmental Weed Warriors event removed invasive plants at Indian Creek. Building Maintenance switched Community Center's HVAC to cooling and Fleet Maintenance maintained two police cars.

Seventy-seven bikers enjoyed Greenbelt's ninth annual pit stop for Bike-to-Work Day and Springhill Lake Recreation Center commenced SMART Girls classes. Spring Recreation culminated with dance performances and a preschoolers graduation ceremony. Art Shares are now in-person, outdoor events. Therapeutic Recreation Zoom-facilitated Golden Agers and yoga classes, and delivered meals to 35 seniors.

Park rangers' peak-hour welcome tent at the Lake offered maps and masks.

of the court and a trimming back of the shrubbery. The police would be instructed to cover that area as part of their regular route. If problems arise, quick action will be taken.

After discussion of about an hour, there was a five-to-two vote in favor of going ahead. Putens did not support it because he believes the underlying problem is that this location is simply not appropriate for a basketball court. Councilmember Silke Pope thought there should be more discussion with the nearby residents before making a decision.

Because it was 12:30 a.m., it was agreed that the remaining items on the agenda would be postponed until the next regular meeting. These items included the following: recognition group policy, waiving matching fund requirements for fiscal year 2021 due to the pandemic, minimum wage for city employees and paid family leave for city employees. [See article on May 20 for the write up of these agenda items.]

## Service or Garden Side?



B. Glee

## Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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## PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -8 p.m.

Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.

GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

Male and female Five-Lined skinks



# Community Events

## At the Library

The Greenbelt Library now has limited in-person services available by appointment. Appointments for one hour of computer use or 15 minutes of browsing borrowable library materials can be made at [pgcmls.info/reopening](mailto:pgcmls.info/reopening) or 240-455-5451. Reservations can be made up to seven days in advance.

Curbside service remains available, also by appointment only. Hours: Tuesdays, 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Items for curbside pickup should be retrieved from the table placed outside the lower-level entrance, which is marked with signs indicating the four separate pickup spots. Customers arriving in a vehicle may park in the parking lot, but staff will not come to their vehicle unless a customer indicates a special need for assistance in their appointment request. All customers must wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines. Customers are reminded that the curb in front of the library entrance is both a fire lane and a delivery zone.

Greenbelt also now has mobile printing available. More information is available at [pgcmls.info/mobile-printing](mailto:pgcmls.info/mobile-printing).

### Vaccine Assistance

PGCMLS offers an English and Spanish Covid-19 Vaccine Hunter Hotline at 240-392-3622 operating Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The hotline will assist by directly booking vaccination appointments, adding people to vaccine pre-registration lists and answering questions about the vaccination process.

### Kids Achieve Club

The Kids Achieve Club program provides academic support with homework assistance and reading practice in English for Speakers of Other Languages for students in grades 1 to 6. The program was created to support the unique needs of English learners to foster a love of reading and to provide academic support.

## Arts Advisory Board Meeting June 1

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet online on Tuesday, June 1 at 7 p.m. For access information, email [ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov) or call 301-474-8000 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## 2021 Virtual Memorial Day

Greenbelt American Legion Post 136, in partnership with the City of Greenbelt, will conduct a virtual Memorial Day Celebration on Monday, May 31st at 11 a.m. The event will be broadcast on the Greenbelt Facebook page which can be found at [www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt](https://www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt).



## New Deal & Art Deco

On Sunday, June 6, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., join the Greenbelt Museum for a virtual panel talk that explores how the New Deal transformed the greater Washington area through parks, buildings, bridges, art, housing (Greenbelt), the Pentagon and more.

This virtual panel discussion featuring architectural historian Isabelle Gournay, historian Brett McCabe and Richard A. Walker, current executive director of the Living New Deal Project, is offered in conjunction with the Living New Deal Project and cosponsored by the Art Deco Society of Washington. The talk is free, but pre-registration is required. To register, visit [eventbrite.com/e/how-the-new-deal-transformed-greater-washington-tickets-153698318809?aff=ebdsoporgpr](https://eventbrite.com/e/how-the-new-deal-transformed-greater-washington-tickets-153698318809?aff=ebdsoporgpr) online.



## Have You Seen Birds Munching on Cicadas?

The Maryland Ornithological Society is studying which bird species are foraging on Brood X periodical cicadas for a publication in Maryland Birdlife. Those observing a bird eating a cicada are encouraged to tell the society about it. It is important to be able to identify the species of bird doing the eating. “Little brown bird” isn’t enough; the society needs to know chickadee, bald eagle, turkey vulture, etc.

So, Greenbelters who know a robin from a cardinal, a blue jay from a woodpecker, a hawk from a raven are encouraged to participate. A website form is available to record observations at [bit.ly/BirdsEatingCicadas](https://bit.ly/BirdsEatingCicadas). For each individual observation of a bird eating a cicada, there are five short questions to answer; each cicada snack is to be separately recorded. People and dogs eating cicadas don’t count. Just birds.

Questions or photos can be emailed to Gabriel Foley at [mddebba3@mdbirds.org](mailto:mddebba3@mdbirds.org). If sending photos, indicate whether or not the photos can be used, with credit, in an article summarizing the data for Maryland Birdlife.

## Greenbelt Virtual Business Coffee

Greenbelt City Council will host a virtual business coffee on Tuesday, June 8 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Learn about the latest happenings in and around Greenbelt as well as connect with other local businesses.

During this virtual session, businesses will be engaged in a facilitated discussion about the tools, strategies and resources needed to look beyond reopening and recovery to long-term business sustainability and resiliency.

Space is limited. To register go to [greenbelt-business-coffeejune-2021.eventbrite.com](https://greenbelt-business-coffeejune-2021.eventbrite.com). The Zoom link will be sent to all participants 24 hours before the event.

## Museum Hosts Talk On the North End

On Thursday, June 17 at 7:30 p.m., the Greenbelt Museum will host a talk on The North End: Greenbelt’s World War II Community.

When defense housing was built within Greenbelt, the town became divided into two neighborhoods, with two different populations living in two kinds of housing, defense and nondefense. The two neighborhoods bonded through the homefront experiences of World War II and the cooperative nature of Greenbelt’s municipal, social and economic institutions. But one section of defense housing, physically and sociologically separate from the planned community, created its own identity and spaces. This area became known as the North End. Volunteer docent Stephen Oetken will lead a virtual stroll through the North End and discuss what made, and continues to make, this area a unique part of Greenbelt’s history.

This live virtual lecture is free but advance registration is required to receive the Zoom link. To register, visit [eventbrite.com/e/the-north-end-greenbelts-wwii-defense-community-tickets-141478262291](https://eventbrite.com/e/the-north-end-greenbelts-wwii-defense-community-tickets-141478262291).

## Free Decluttering Online Workshop

On Saturday, June 5 at 1 p.m., as part of Greenbelt Day Weekend, there will a free Zoom presentation on Decluttering and Downsizing. Barbara Davis is a local organizer and coach on ways to clear out clutter. Although sponsored by the city’s Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, this lecture is open to all ages. To register and get the Zoom link, visit [bit.ly/2R2fzvr](https://bit.ly/2R2fzvr).

## Donate Sneakers For People in Need

The Board of Congregational Life at Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. GotSneakers has developed a unique program that asks communities to reach into their closets, not their pockets. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, which has harmful effects on the environment, and will send the sneakers to countries where the poor often go barefoot out of necessity. For more information about GotSneakers, go to their website at [GotSneakers.com](https://GotSneakers.com).

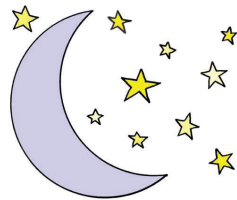
A donation box for sneakers will be placed outside of Fellowship Center, the small building behind the church, for people to drop off sneakers at any time. GotSneakers will pay GCC a varying amount for name-brand and off-brand laced-up sneakers with no tears inside or outside. The company even pays for cleaning and shipping – all GCC does is collect sneakers. “We know that most people have extra sneakers in their closets they would like to donate rather than throw away. An additional incentive is now raising funds to feed the hungry and help the environment. It’s a win-win situation for everybody.”

## Golden Age Club’s Schedule for June

The Greenbelt Golden Age group is eagerly awaiting the day when they can meet in person again. For now the group continues to meet by Zoom (or phone) every Wednesday at 11 a.m. To join the Zoom or phone list, contact Rebekah (Becky) Sutfin at 240-542-2056 (leave a message) or email [rsutfin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:rsutfin@greenbeltmd.gov).

Also contact Sutfin to be added to the email list. Robin Olson sends out information to everyone on the list weekly or more often if there is important information for seniors.

June 2 – General business meeting and chats; June 9 – Presentation; June 16 – June birthday celebration; June 23 – BINGO (tentative); June 30 – Greenbelt Day Event



## Astronomical Society Black Hole Lecture

On Thursday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m. the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) welcomes all to hear Dr. Sayali Avachat speak on black holes and gravity. She will discuss key aspects in the history of gravity and important milestones in the discovery of black holes.

Avachat has a Ph.D. in space sciences from the Florida Institute of Technology and is currently working as an astrophysicist/education advisor for the Etelman Observatory at the University of the Virgin Islands.

All are welcome to join this Zoom lecture, whether members of ASG or not. For those interested, the Zoom session will open a half-hour early for a meet-and-greet. A Zoom link will be posted before the meeting on the Astronomical Society’s website, [greenbeltastro.org](https://greenbeltastro.org).

## FoundationShowcases Local Groups in June

Greenbelt Community Foundation (GCF) announced that its 2021 Showcase will be streaming all weekend long on Saturday and Sunday, June 5-6. The showcase, viewable online, will feature past grant recipients sharing their passion and talents.

Groups being featured in the hour-long showcase include Higher Achievement, GIVES, The Space: Free Art for All, Greenbelt Arts Center, Friends of the New Deal Café, Greenbelt Archive Project, Friends of the Greenbelt Museum, the Old Greenbelt Theatre, Alex and Olmsted, and Eleanor Roosevelt High School students.

Every year GCF hosts a Showcase so donors can see the effect that donated dollars have made to the local community. This year, for everyone’s safety, GCF has elected to hold this fundraiser online.



To buy a ticket to the showcase or to make a donation, visit [GreenbeltFoundation.org](https://GreenbeltFoundation.org).

## Police Forum on Gun Violence Prevention

The Greenbelt Police Department will be holding a virtual town hall on Gun Violence Prevention on Thursday, May 27 at 7 p.m. Anyone who has been or knows a victim of a gun crime, and anyone who is interested in learning about the harm caused to the community by violence, should join the town hall to discuss this important topic. For more information, including the Zoom log-in, email [cares@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:cares@greenbeltmd.gov).

## Boxwood Scholarship

The Boxwood Village Civic Association offers an annual \$500 scholarship to a current Boxwood Village resident. For more information and the application form, email Pat McAndrew at [pmcandrew@mzmlaw.net](mailto:pmcandrew@mzmlaw.net). The deadline is June 30.

GATe GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION Friday May 28 - Thursday June 3		
TAKE OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY TODAY! <a href="https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/community-survey">https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/community-survey</a>		
PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE		CONNECT WITH GATe ON  
7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming
8 am	Democracy Now!	Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am	Classic Movies Hosted by Ron MacCloskey Musical/Comedy • 1949	The Inspector General Danny Kaye • Walter Slezak Directed by Henry Koster 90% Rotten Tomatoes
11 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	Elementary Edition Bond Mill v Capitol Heights
2 pm	Music at the New Deal Café S2E4	SAW • Songwriters Association of Washington with Host Lynn Holyfield
3 pm	Classic Movies Hosted by Ron MacCloskey Musical/Comedy • 1949	The Inspector General Danny Kaye • Walter Slezak Directed by Henry Koster 90% Rotten Tomatoes
5 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	Elementary Edition Bond Mill v Capitol Heights
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10 pm	Music at the New Deal Café S2E4	SAW • Songwriters Association of Washington with Host Lynn Holyfield
11 pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
Midnight	Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming
WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77 STREAMING LIVE at <a href="https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream">www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream</a>		



# History of Emancipation Juneteenth Celebrations

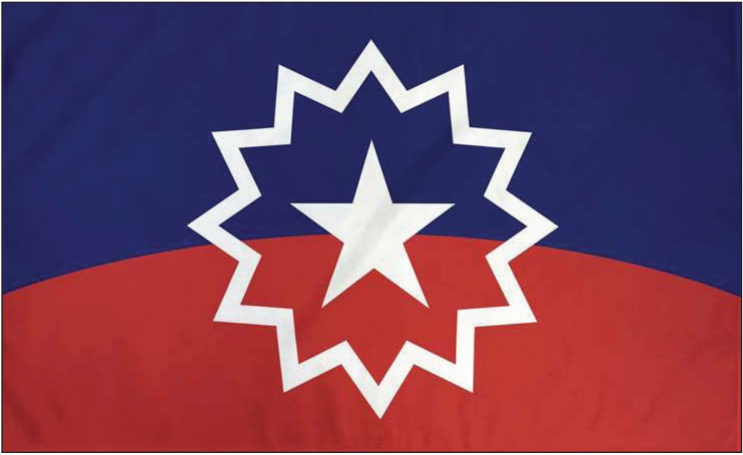
by Lois Rosado

In 1862, the Anglo-African, a Black newspaper published in New York, stated: “It was a fitting celebration of the anniversary of Fort Sumter, that the Congress should pass a bill to emancipate the capital from the thrall of slavery forever. Henceforth, whatever betide the nation, its physical heart is freed from the presence of slavery.” Thus began the Emancipation Day celebrations in Washington, D.C., on April 16, 1862, which continue to this day.

The first state to abolish slavery outright was Massachusetts in 1783; Pennsylvania proposed a gradual emancipation process in 1780. Connecticut and Rhode Island also proposed a form of gradual emancipation in 1784, New York in 1799 and New Jersey in 1808. Zephaniah Swift wrote in 1791 that it was the responsibility of the slave owners to prepare slave populations for independence by educating them with academic and religious instruction leading to gradual emancipation (Peter P. Hinks, historian).

Many enslaved people in northern states negotiated for their freedom, escaped or found other means to gain freedom. Many people held in bondage were determined to have liberty. For example, with the help of the Connecticut Society for the Promotion of Freedom, slave owners were sued for manumission through the courts. Such lawsuits were filed in Maryland as well as in other, mostly northern, states. The first emancipation celebrations in northern states occurred in 1808 with the official end of the International Slave Trade. Chattel slavery was finally abolished in northern states in 1848.

After the election of President Abraham Lincoln in November 1860, seven southern states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas) seceded from the Union and formed the Confederacy. Four more states (Arkansas, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia) joined them when the Civil War began with the firing on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. A year later, Congress enacted the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act, ending slavery in Washington, D.C. Slave owners were paid for



Juneteenth Flag

their financial losses. No compensation was ever paid to enslaved people for their labor.

On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation was enacted into law. Only those in bondage living in the 11 Southern states that had seceded were declared free. Four border states (Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland and Missouri) remained in the Union, and enslaved people there were not freed. Maryland freed all slaves residing within its borders on November 1, 1864, a year before the 13th Amendment was passed in Congress.

The first Emancipation Day celebration, once the proclamation was decreed, took place in Port Royal, S.C. But 250,000 enslaved people living in Texas did not learn of their liberation until June 19, 1865, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued and two months after the end of the Civil War. The announcement resulted in the celebration of Juneteenth, a term that combines the month of June and the 19th, the date when all African Americans were freed from chattel slavery.

Former Texas slave Felix Haywood exclaimed, “We was all walkin’ on golden clouds.... Everybody went wild.... We was free. Just like that, we was free” (from Lone Star Past: Memory and History in Texas). June 19 is considered by many African Americans their Independence Day and, as people migrated from Texas, Juneteenth celebrations migrated with them.

In 1997, Ben Haith, a founder of the National Juneteenth Cel-

ebration Foundation, designed a Juneteenth commemoration flag. The star is for Galveston, Texas, where the last enslaved populations were liberated, and represents the Freedom of African Americans in all 50 states. The burst symbolizes new beginnings and the arc in the middle of the flag symbolizes new horizons for African Americans. Colors of the American flag frame these symbols, the color red for the blood spilled by Black people in every war fought by America from its Independence to the present day. This flag is a reminder that enslaved people and their descendants are American citizens. The colors represent the continuous commitment of people in the United States to live up to the ideal of Liberty and Justice for All.

We celebrate Juneteenth as a reminder that the freedom of all U.S. citizens is essential for the survival of American democracy.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

During the pandemic, we gather VIRTUALLY for Liturgy of the Word Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link:

FDeBernardo@aol.com

**Greenbelt Baptist Church**

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome HERE.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
God is still speaking

**This Sunday's Sermon on Facebook Live Sunday at 10:15**

How Can These Things Be?

[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](https://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

## ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION

With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.

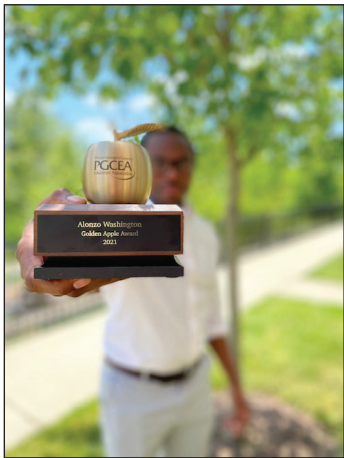
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)



Congratulations to Artist in Residence Chris Corson and Arts Instructor Sally Davies, who both have work in the Delaplaine Arts Center National Juried Exhibition.

Congratulations to Delegate Alonzo T. Washington for winning the 2021 Golden Apple Award from the Prince George's County Educators Association.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



Alonzo Washington shows off his Golden Apple award.

## Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com) para ver artículos en español.

See our website, [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com), for articles in Spanish.



## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now. Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc. 10 a.m. Sunday mornings



The Bible Says...

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23



Sunday Worship Services 10a-11a ONLINE [MCFcc.org/online](http://MCFcc.org/online)

“From every race, religion, nationality, and class, souls are uniting around a vision of humanity as one people and the earth as one country. Many who have long suffered are finding their voice and becoming protagonists of their own development, resourceful and resilient” – Universal House of Justice



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

## Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

All services and activities are currently virtual

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

## Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church



3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



May 30 10 a.m.

"We Are All Artists"

Rev. Lynn Strauss, Minister; with Worship Associate Polly Pettit

When did you realize that you were an artist? If it hasn't happened yet, don't lose hope. What is it you are passionate about doing? How do you tap into your creative side? Who told you that you couldn't sing, or dance, or draw? Rev. Strauss will share how she came to understand her work as mother and minister, as an art form.

ONLINE ONLY Streaming information at [http://pbuuc.org/news](http://http://pbuuc.org/news)

**Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH**

Christ-centered Biblical & Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00pm  
Sunday School 9:45am  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
301-474-4212

**ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION

With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)





# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

**VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR MAY 31-JUNE 4**  
Monday, May 31 **No Meetings-Memorial Day**  
Tuesday, June 1 at 7:00pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**, Virtual  
Tuesday, June 1 at 7:00pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, Virtual *On the Agenda: Continued discussion & plans for the upcoming town hall meeting on public safety*  
Wednesday, June 2 at 7:30pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, *On the Agenda Beltway Plaza Phase 1 Detailed Site Plan*  
Wednesday, June 2 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/Advisory Group Chairs**  
*Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)*  
Thursday, June 3 at 6:00pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**, Virtual  
*In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov). This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).*

**VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES**  
Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Arts Advisory Board
- SCMAGLEV Opposition Task Force
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

**For more information call 301- 474-8000**




**Greenbelt Recreation Summer 2021 Camp Guide**  
**NOW AVAILABLE!**  
Visit the Greenbelt Virtual Recreation Center at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation)  
Registration going on now.

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**  
City Offices will be closed Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day. The Greenbelt Connection will not be operating.  
**REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE: Week of May 31**  
Monday Route – Collected Tuesday  
Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday  
Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday  
Thursday Route – Collected Friday  
There will be no appliance/metal, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, June 4

**Greenbelt Recreation Summer Activity Guide Available at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation)**  
Registration going on now! Classes begin the week of June 14, 2021  
Includes options for all ages and interests. Discover seasonal special events, varied recreation facilities and classes to provide opportunities for community celebrations. Learn something new or improve your skills in an activity you enjoy, all while socializing and staying active!  
[www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) or 301-397-2200 for more info.

**GREENBELT DAY WEEKEND**  
Greenbelt Day Weekend 2021 marks the 84th anniversary of the city's founding in 1937. Join friends and neighbors in celebrating the vitality of this cooperative community, embodying the living legacy of the New Deal. Learn about Greenbelt's evolution as a social and economic experiment turned National Historic Landmark at [greenbeltmuseum.org](http://greenbeltmuseum.org).

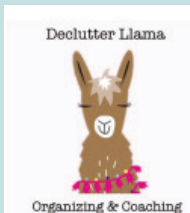
**FRIDAY, JUNE 4**  
**9pm, MOONLIT MOVIE-13 GOING ON 30 (PG13)**  
**Braden Field, behind the Youth Center, 99 Centerway**  
Sign up in advance for tickets sold through Old Greenbelt Theatre. Use the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/3eJVOIJ>. Purchase a circle for up to 5 household members at \$25 per circle

**SCAN ME**




**SATURDAY, JUNE 5**  
**10am, BUDDY ATTICK LAKE HERITAGE WALKING TOUR**  
**Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road, stage/bandstand area is tour start location**  
Greenbelt Reaction's Heritage Tour is a comprehensive and interactive program which will invite both Greenbelt residents and non-residents to learn about the storied history of Greenbelt's recreation development and current ecological efforts at Greenbelt Lake. The tour will take place at Buddy Attick Park where participants will be guided around Greenbelt Lake on the 1.25mile trail with seven unique stops. These "impromptu lecture stops" will include information about the creation of Greenbelt Lake, evolution of Buddy Attick Park rules, interesting stories throughout the park's history, and current water/ecological conservation efforts.

**1pm, NOT FOR SENIORS ONLY: DECLUTTER & DOWNSIZING**  
**Virtual on Zoom**  
Greenbelt's Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee hosts this annual workshop, open to all. Join local organizer and coach of Declutter Llama, Barbara Davis, on ways to clear out your clutter! Get motivated, get started and get it done! Sign up at <https://bit.ly/2R2>




**Declutter Llama**  
Organizing & Coaching

**SCAN ME**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 6**  
**10am-2pm, GREENBELT FARMERS MARKET**  
**Roosevelt Center Parking Lot, Centerway**  
Our vendors will be offering produce, pasture-raised meats, sustainable seafood, soaps, crepes, ice cream, bakery items, mushrooms, flowers, plants, coffee, ethnic food, and more!  
Visit [www.greenbeltfarmersmarket.org](http://www.greenbeltfarmersmarket.org).


**11am-12:30pm, ARTFUL AFTERNOON PAINT-OUT PICNIC**  
**Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road**  
A plein air art event hosted by painter Racquel Keller, Greenbelt Recreation instructor and Greenbelt Community Center Artist in Residence. All ages and experience levels welcome. Bring your drawing and painting supplies or pick up some basics at the park. Create Greenbeltinspired landscape art. Camp chairs and sunscreen recommended. At your option, bring a snack! Masks required and social distancing will be maintained. Sign up at [www.signupgenius.com/go/paintoutpicnic](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/paintoutpicnic) in advance for more information.

**SCAN ME**



**1pm-4pm, GREENBELT ARTISTS VIRTUAL OPEN STUDIO TOUR**  
**Online and live on Instagram**  
Enjoy a friendly visit with the Greenbelt Community Center's Artists in Residence and other Greenbelt-affiliated artists. Fifteen-minute studio visits will be scheduled throughout the afternoon. Several participating artists have work available for purchase and accept commissions. See a preview of the artists' work in an online exhibition opening on Friday evening, June 4. Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) for information about both the tour and the exhibition.

**4pm, HOW THE NEW DEAL TRANSFORMED GREATER WASHINGTON**  
**Online Panel Presentation**  
Join the Greenbelt Museum for a virtual panel talk that explores how the New Deal transformed the greater Washington area through parks, buildings, bridges, art, housing, and more! Offered in conjunction with the Living New Deal Project and cosponsored by the Art Deco Society of Washington. Free! Pre-registration required. To register visit: <https://bit.ly/2R7Bj9D> or scan the QR code!

**SCAN ME**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 4-SUNDAY, JUNE 6**

**JUNE IS PEACE MONTH**  
**CITY PROCLAMATION**  
A City Proclamation declaring Peace Month will be presented at the first Council meeting in June.  
**POSTERS FOR PEACE MONTH**  
To celebrate Peace Month and to highlight the history and impact of peace artwork and posters, the Greenbelt Museum invites you to be a part of our peace poster event activity throughout June. From Picasso's Guernica in 1937 to Vietnam-era homemade signs to posters we've seen in the past year, human expression has a huge impact on changing the world.  
We respect the art form and ask: **What does peace look like?** Create a sign or poster in response! If you want to share the work with our community, please put the sign in your window for Peace Month in June. The Museum would love to see a photo of your poster in the window! If you'd like us to share your photo on our Facebook page or website please send a photo to [education@greenbeltmuseum.org](mailto:education@greenbeltmuseum.org). All ages are encouraged to participate!



**PEACE**  
Tanner Power Collection, Library of Congress



**CITY OF GREENBELT**  
**JUNETEENTH**  
Celebrate Freedom  
June 19, 2021

**JUNETEENTH!**  
The Juneteenth Committee is working on a schedule of activities. The schedule is anticipated to be finalized soon. It will be posted in next week's News Review  
**ARTFUL AFTERNOON PAINT-OUT PICNIC**  
Greenbelt Day Weekend activities include Artful Afternoon Paint-Out Picnic for all ages and experience levels. Participants register to create landscape paintings on June 6th, from 11am-12:30pm. The location is at Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road.



**OPEN STUDIO TOUR**  
Greenbelt Artists Virtual Open Studio Tour will be held June 6th, 1pm-4pm, online and live on Instagram. Fifteen minute studio visits will be scheduled throughout the afternoon. An online exhibit opening will be held on Friday evening, June 4th.  
[www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation)

**GREENBELT FARMERS MARKET**  
The Market vendors offer produce, pasture-raised meats, sustainable seafood, crepes, ice cream, crafts, plants, flowers, baked goods, ethnic food and more! Greenbelt Farmers Market is held weekly on Sundays, 10am-2pm, at the Roosevelt Center Parking Lot, Centerway.

**REEL AND MEAL - FEATURING THE THIRD HARMONY**  
June 21 at 7 p.m. via zoom.  


**THE THIRD HARMONY**  
"MICHAEL NAGLER"

The Third Harmony is a 2020 documentary by Michael Nagler, co-founder of the Peace and Conflict Studies Department at U.C. Berkeley. Drawing on interviews with veteran activists like Civil Rights leader Bernard Lafayette, scientists like behaviorist Frans de Waal and neuroscientist Marco Iacoboni, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, political scientist Erica Chenoweth, futurist Elisabet Sahtouris, and others, this 44-minute documentary will help the general public, often at a loss to understand the protests occurring in many cities, to better grasp just what nonviolence is and how it works.



HALEY continued from page 1

in Greenbelt, the city is part of the film’s origin story, as the Utopia Film Festival is what brought the two co-directors, Haley and Brad J. Bennett, together.

Haley was approached by Bennett, who had already begun a project in Central Virginia where he is from. Bennett had read about “ill-preserved burial sites and the people bringing back respect to what one would think would be in place, or what should be in place for any place that is a final resting place,” Haley explained. Bennett entered a film in the 2017 Utopia Film Festival. Forgive – Don’t Forget won that year’s Utopian Vision Award. Bennett ultimately invited Haley to join him for his next project, Unmarked. “Really, he gets all the credit for coming up with the idea of it,” Haley said of Bennett. “And I’ve been so happy to be part of it.”

How gravesites are cared for and preserved matters. The film clearly shows the inequities between how the graves of those held in slavery have been treated by the cities, towns or institutions where they are located as compared to those that hold the remains of slave-holders and their descendants. To disregard the cemetery is to continue to disrespect the lives of the people who were enslaved and to continue the injustice they experienced. The men and women engaged in efforts to find, reclaim and respect those sites not only honor the dead but find connection to relatives, family stories and meaningful history.

This is a journey that could go on indefinitely. There are hundreds of thousands of such sites and Haley has already heard from people who would like the crew to go deeper with the stories they’ve highlighted. The film was recently written up in The Guardian, expanding the project’s reach, with the filmmakers being asked to tell the stories of other locations in states all over the nation. Funding is necessary for such further work.

Haley and I talked about how, once one starts paying attention, the search for these gravesites and their stories leads everywhere. “I am of the mindset now that because of this movie and because of what it reminded me of ... I go to any place where there is a large plantation, where the person who owned the plantation was a slave-holder ... there’s a part of me where my eye starts scanning the ground and I think, ‘I wonder where the people who were enslaved here are, I wonder where they are buried.’ It’s a part of me now.”

In addition to the importance of the Utopia Film Festival in bringing the co-directors together, Haley noted that some Greenbelters supported the film and “helped us get to where we are today.” These contributions are not small; not long before we walked together, Haley had learned the film had been nominated for an Emmy Award. For more information about this year’s Capital Emmys, follow @capitalemmys on Twitter or visit capitalemmys.tv/emmys and tune in on June 26 when winners are announced.

Haley is a man of many accomplishments. He is the director of the Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland at the Maryland State Archives. He



Chris Haley's documentary film Unmarked explores the efforts to find, preserve and honor the graves of enslaved people.



Chris Haley looks at Turner Cemetery on Ivy Lane.

served as keynote speaker for the 2020 Greenbelt Black History event. In addition to being a historian, speaker and filmmaker, he is an actor, writer, and director of Greenbelt’s Utopia Film Festival, and poet, with a published collection of LGBTQ-themed poetry, Until the Right One Comes Along. To learn more about Haley, get a copy of his book and look at his other upcoming projects, visit ChrisHaleySpeaks.com. To watch Unmarked and to learn more about it, visit unmarkedfilm.com.

ERHS, Community Get New Outdoor Basketball Courts

by Amy Hansen

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

Sam Brin, brother of Sergey Brin, one of the founders of Google, donated \$150,000 to the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) Parent Teacher Student Association for the construction of two new outdoor basketball courts. Both Brin brothers attended ERHS after growing up in Greenbelt.

“These outdoor courts are going to help our sports teams at Roosevelt and will also be used for P.E. classes,” said Brendan O’Connell, an ERHS social studies teacher and a boys basketball coach. “But one thing that Sam insisted on with this project is

that it also be available for community use. There will be two full-court basketball courts available for the community to use after hours as well as some outdoor workout equipment.”

O’Connell added that the school did not reach out to Brin – it was Brin who sought out the school. “From what I know, almost all of the projects supported by the Brin family have been initiated by Sam himself. He really has a passion for the school and a desire to help out wherever he can,” said O’Connell. The courts are particularly important now, he said. “I think having an outdoor space for kids to play is even more important considering the current pandemic.”



Work is underway on new outdoor basketball courts at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, funded by a donation from alumnus Sam Brin. The paving should be completed in May.



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# It's the Official Start of Grilling Season!

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### Grilling Season Begins with Trips to the Co-op for...

• Meat, Poultry & Seafood	• Wine, Beer, Hard Cider & Seltzer
• Plant-based Meat Alternatives	• Alcohol-free Beverages - Water, Sodas & Fruit Juices
• Seasonal Fruits & Vegetables	• Grilling & Party Supplies
• "Picnic" Desserts, Snacks & Dips	

Memorial Holiday, Monday Hours: 9am-7pm. Pharmacy will be closed.



# Council Ponders Bond Sale To Fund Capital Projects

by Diane Oberg

On Monday, May 17, in addition to holding the first final budget worksession, the Greenbelt City Council met with the city’s financial advisor regarding the financial policies that Greenbelt might want to adopt to improve its chances of getting a good bond rating if council decides to sell bonds to finance any major project. The advisors were upbeat about the city’s chances for a good rating and a successful bond sale.

In an earlier meeting, First Vice President Jennifer Diercksen and Senior Vice President Joe Mason of Davenport & Company, LLC, advised council that the city’s financial situation was healthy. They said that the city has the opportunity of using bond financing instead of bank financing for projects such as major maintenance of its aging infrastructure on a pay-as-you-go basis. They advised that this should result in a lower interest rate than the city could obtain by seeking bank financing. The company feels that the city could obtain a credit rating of at least Aa3 from Moody’s, which would place it on the lowest step of the “very strong” tier of ratings from that agency.

At the budget worksession, Diercksen told council that rating agencies now pay more attention than in the past to municipalities’ financial policies and urged council to formally adopt four policies. These include maintaining a fund balance of at least 17 to 20 percent of operating revenues, along with a policy for replenishing the reserves within three years, if reserves should drop below that level. The proposed budget showed reserves of 17.8 percent of expenditures but that is likely to change in the adopted budget due to an unexpected increase in the city worker’s compensation insurance premium and possible council changes to the budget. The city once had a goal of maintaining reserves of 10 percent of expenditures but had been increasing its desired reserves and has maintained reserves of 15 to 22 percent in recent years.

Diercksen recommends that the city adopt policies in three additional areas: 1) the city’s debt versus assessed value should not exceed 3 percent, 2) debt service should not account for more than 10 percent of expenditures, and 3) the city’s fixed costs should remain under 20 percent of expenditures. She noted, however, that the city could adjust these targets slightly based upon its final plan of finance.

### New Metrics

Debt versus assessed value addresses whether the city can borrow more than it does currently by comparing the indebtedness of the city to its tax base. The city currently has no policy addressing this metric.

Debt service as a percent of expenditures measures debt affordability and addresses whether the city can afford the payments. Again, the city has no current policy although its debt is currently well below the typical ceiling of 10 percent, Diercksen said.

Fixed cost burden is a new metric that measures financial flexibility, Diercksen noted. It

compares the city’s pension and other post-employment benefits to total expenditures. She said that the 20 percent threshold she is recommending is what the rating agencies typically measure municipalities against.

### How Much?

The metrics give inconsistent guidance as to how much the city could borrow. Although the debt-to-assessed-value policy would allow the city to issue up to approximately \$63 million in bonds as early as this fiscal year, the debt-service-versus-expenditures policy would limit borrowing to \$25 million this fiscal year and \$37 million more over the next decade, particularly when existing debt service drops in Fiscal Year 2027.

### Next Steps

Diercksen laid out an aggressive schedule that would allow the city to hold a bond referendum in conjunction with the November election and to complete the bond sale before the end of the calendar year. The first steps are for the city to develop a comprehensive, prioritized list of capital projects that it wants to fund and to formally adopt the recommended policies. Davenport would then use that list to provide council and staff with funding options that comply with the recommended policies. The schedule includes three town hall meetings on the referendum

to receive citizen comments and questions.

### Council Discussion

There are clearly things council will need to work out. Councilmember Rodney Roberts was leery of borrowing and questioned why Davenport concluded that the city is in wonderful shape when its expenditures are just \$1,000 less than revenues (in the proposed budget). He also opposed rushing to a bond sale. The city needs to take the time to get reliable information on how much projects would cost, noting that there had been large overruns in the past.

Councilmember Emmett Jordan expressed discomfort for the timing of the borrowing while Councilmember Leta Mach embraced the idea as a source of funding for renovating the former National Guard armory for city use. Councilmember Judith Davis questioned whether council could come up with a prioritized list by the end of June and doubted that the city would be ready for a bond referendum this year. Mason indicated the list could be delayed until the end of August. If the city did not go to the voters in November, it would either need to wait two more years for the next city election or foot the costs of a separate referendum.

At that point, council turned its attention to its first attempt at finalizing the FY22 budget.

## Bike-to-Work Riders Pedal Through Center

Seventy-seven cyclists pedaled up to the table for Greenbelt’s ninth annual Bike-to-Work Day on Friday, May 21, even though they weren’t all going to an office. Many were biking for exercise and would go back home for work but were happy to join in the biker love.

Di Quynn Reno, who coordinated the event for the city, said participants rode through and collected snacks, dental kits, sanitizer, a free cup of coffee coupon, a free yoga class pass and bike

bells. “The bikers expressed their appreciation and look forward to next year when they can stick around longer at the event. We adjusted this year to a grab ’n go only,” she said.

This was the 20th anniversary of the regional event and ninth year for Greenbelt’s participation. Sponsors were Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Bee Yoga Fusion, Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket & Pharmacy, McCarl Dental Group and Greenbelt Homes Inc.



Bike-to-Work participants of all ages pick up goodie bags at the Greenbelt stop in Roosevelt Center parking lot on Friday, May 21.

- Photos by Jennifer Sterling



## Adventure is Worthwhile



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PHOTO BY JOHANNA GODERRE

**Blooming delphinium in Johanna Goderre's yard steals the show in the intense purple category.**



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9473 Annapolis Road, Lanham, MD 20706





Regular Board meetings are open to Members  
For more information, visit our website: [www.ghi.coop](http://www.ghi.coop)



# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police)  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

**Assault**  
May 17, 10:36 a.m., Cherrywood Lane near Springhill Drive. A man approached a woman at the bus stop, grabbed her by the wrists, slapped her and then walked away on Springhill Drive.

**Fraud**  
In four separate incidents, letters containing a check were posted in U.S. Postal Service mailboxes and unknown person(s) gained possession of the checks, changed the amount and payee information and attempted to or did deposit them. One incident occurred on April 25 at the mailbox at 101 Greenhill Road; the other three occurred at the mailbox near Ridge Road and Plateau Place, one on May 9 and the other two reported on May 14 and May 17.

**Theft**  
May 14, 2:02 p.m., 9336 Edmonston Road. A package was taken from the front stoop of a residence.

May 14, 3:23 a.m., 8000 block Greenbury Drive. A man who met a food delivery person outside to pick up his order left his wallet on the hood of his car. Surveillance footage revealed that the woman who delivered the food took the wallet and left in an unknown vehicle.

May 17, 2:31 p.m., 6000 Greenbelt Road. An employee at Diamond Jewelers reported that a man walked up to the kiosk, pulled out a hammer and broke the glass display case. He then removed gold necklaces and fled on foot.

**Burglary**  
May 14, 4:36 a.m., 5900 Greenbelt Road. An employee at Dunkin Donuts reported that a man used a rock to force entry into the store and attempted to steal money from the register. Upon discovering there was no money in it, he fled.

**Vandalism**  
May 19, 1:28 p.m., 5811 Cherrywood Terrace. A rock was used to break out the bedroom window of a residence.

**Vehicle Crime**  
Two vehicles were recovered.

One is a 2007 Acura MDX reported stolen March 13 from the 9100 block Springhill Lane, recovered May 13 by Metropolitan police at an undisclosed location. The tags on it at the time of theft, Maryland 12678CJ, were not recovered and are still out as stolen.

A 2017 Hyundai Elantra reported stolen May 6 from 6114 Breezewood Drive was recovered by Seat Pleasant police in the 6200 block Central Avenue.

Rear tag Maryland 8EG9950 was taken May 19 from 7200 Morrison Drive.

A large spool of copper wire was taken from the bed of a pickup truck at 5807 Cherrywood Lane on May 16.

A rock was used to break out a right rear window at 5807 Cherrywood Lane on May 19. The vehicle was rummaged through but it is unknown if anything was taken.

A witness at 9135 Edmonston Terrace saw a man enter a possibly unlocked vehicle and rummage through it but nothing appeared to have been taken. The man fled when the witness yelled at him.

## Mailbox Thefts Continue

The Police Department continues to receive reports of mailed checks being stolen, altered in amount and cashed by unknown suspects. The Postmaster has been made aware of the situation. As detectives continue to investigate these incidents, the Police Department recommends that people refrain from using the outdoor blue mailboxes and instead either take mail to a postal facility or consider paying bills online, if possible.



## MAGLEV continued from page 1

affluent and negative consequences for everyone else.”

Marshall’s report concludes that, “the DEIS overestimates travel time savings and reliability benefits by a factor of five or more. Three quarters of the purported economic benefits of SCMaglev are travel time and reliability benefits and these are overestimated by a factor of 15 or more.... The other significant economic benefits calculations in the DEIS rest both on inflated ridership and on unreliable vehicle miles traveled (VMT) multipliers.”

Further, the DEIS does not address who will pay the billions of dollars needed to construct the project and does not demonstrate that operating and maintenance costs will be offset by revenues, leading to unanswered questions regarding the financial viability of the project and the possible need for public subsidies.

The theme of deficient or hidden information runs throughout the DEIS. The review also found that the DEIS relies on limited geological information to evaluate the

proposed routes, even though tunnel location and design is dependent on that information, and fails to explain how and why the FRA eliminated other routes – which may have been safer or better suited to the project – from consideration early in the NEPA process.

These issues are in addition to the toll the project would have on the natural environment, which has been well-documented by local jurisdictions and advocacy groups, including the Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit, the National Parks Conservation Association and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

As Mayor Colin Byrd summed up: “The project would harm human health and the environment, destroy parkland, adversely affect the true public transit options that serve the area, and generally reduce the quality of life of Greenbelt ... and other Prince George’s County residents. These negative impacts would disproportionately fall on environmental justice communities along the proposed routes, while the project

would provide benefits to only a small minority of people who are wealthy enough to afford the high fares and fortunate enough to live near one of its stations, of which there are only three.”

The inaccurate information and inflated benefits portrayed in the DEIS – as well as the information entirely hidden from public view – has added fuel to years-long local opposition to the SCMaglev Project. In their letter to the FRA, Greenbelt, College Park and Landover Hills voice staunch opposition to the SCMaglev and request that the agency halt its consideration and stop wasting taxpayer dollars on this harmful and unnecessary project.

Greenbelt submitted the results of the review to the FRA and the Maryland Department of Transportation on the day the public comment period ended. The comments were also sent to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, Governor Larry Hogan, U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, and U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer, as well as state and local officials. The full comments and associated materials, including the cover letter and attachments, can be found at [greenbeltnmd.gov/maglev](http://greenbeltnmd.gov/maglev).

Frank Gervasi and other Stop the Maglev supporters at the Farmers Market on May 23 display an approximately 1:12 scale model of one of the maglev towers that would dot the Greenbelt landscape if the maglev project becomes reality.



PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS

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BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

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DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

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**125 Lakeside | Under Contract**

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# Sports

## Greenbelt Babe Ruth Teams Back in Action

by Ian Gleason

Greenbelt Babe Ruth returned to action on Thursday, May 20 after a year-long hiatus due to Covid-19. Thursday evening was a quintessential May evening as the 15U team took the field against the Woodridge Warriors out of Washington, D.C. While the evening ended in an 11-6 loss for Greenbelt, it showed much promise for the future, both on the baseball field and as a hope for return to normalcy. The 15U team has a strong core of players

and welcomes former players Eli Klopp, Eric Weaver and Josue Bonilla to the coaching staff. The 18U team begins their season this week as well.

Both teams will be participating in the Maryland Stars and Strikes Tournament in Howard County over the Memorial Day Weekend and then will return to league play with many games slated for Braden Field beginning the first week of June.



The Greenbelt Babe Ruth 15U team strategizes before the start of their first game on Thursday, May 20 at Braden Field.

- Photos by Juan Granados



Coach Eli Klopp talks to starting shortstop (and younger brother) JJ Klopp during Greenbelt Babe Ruth's Home Opener on May 20.

## Greenbelt Seniors Softball Team Starts Season Strong

by Altoria Bell Ross

The Greenbelt Seniors softball team is 5-0. The season for the Baltimore Beltway Senior Softball League opened April 26 with a rainout. However, Greenbelt Seniors won against the Howard Hitters in Howard County on April 28, 16-12. The team, which is in Division C, has also defeated Bowie Legends (18-7), Glenelg in Howard County (11-1), Bel Air in Harford County (14-3) and Carroll Blue in Carroll County. The team plays home games at Watkins Regional Park in Upper Marlboro.

Coach and Manager George Harrison leads the team of 24

men, 60 and above, and two women in their 50s. Misty McGill and Jimmy Hoyles assist him. Games typically begin at 10 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The schedule for the rest of Greenbelt's season appears below:

June 2: Howard Hitters, Away  
June 7: Bowie Legends, Home  
June 9: Shoremen, Away  
June 14: Glenelg, Home  
June 21: Bel Air, Away  
June 23: Blue, Away  
June 28: Ramblers, Home  
June 30: Bowie Bronze, Home  
July 7: Hitters, Home  
July 12: Shoremen, Home



Misty McGill, Ted Maduro, Greg Poole, Larry Hill and Altoria Bell Ross relax after a game.



Jasper Pendergrass is at bat for Greenbelt Seniors against Carroll Blue.

- Photos courtesy Altoria Bell Ross

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Coming Soon!  
Brick Townhome - Corner Lot Addition with 1/2 bath - wide floorplan Text 'BARGAIN' to 88000 for more info.

Estate Sale GHI 2 Bedroom townhome with hardwood floors, opened kitchen & breakfast bar. Large fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands.  
Brick Townhome with Addition Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.  
Large floorplan w/addition Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backyard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.

Coming Soon!  
Brick Townhome - Corner Lot Bedroom Addition with full bath Text 'BARGAIN' to 88000 for more info.

Townhome with 2 additions 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced, corner lot. Large family room addition in back, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.  
4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened up 3rd floor for office space in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.  
Charlestowne Village Single-level 1-br condo in Greenbelt - no stairs! Parquet flooring throughout. Remodeled kit. With Stainless Steel appliances.

Addition - Backs to Woodlands Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on 2nd floor. New HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.  
Brick Townhome 2 Bedroom GHI townhome remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with s/s dishwasher. Hardwood flooring on both levels.  
Upper Level One Bedroom GHI home with full-sized washer and dryer in separate laundry room. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!  
2 BR Townhome Remodeled GHI home w/ new kitchen, bath & ceramic tile floors!

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# Greenbelt Recreation Arts Hosts Studio Tour, June 6

by Nicole DeWald and Anne Gardner

Greenbelt Recreation Arts will sponsor a Virtual Open Studio Tour on Sunday, June 6 from 1 to 4 p.m. Guests are invited to chat online with Greenbelt-affiliated visual artists during 10- to 15-minute studio visits live on Instagram. Participating artists include seven of the Community Center artists in residence: Karen Arrington (pottery, including wood-fired pieces), Chris Corson (ceramic sculpture), Rachel Cross (mixed media), Gina Denn (pottery and ceramic sculpture), Mary Gawlik (ceramic art tile), Kathy Karlson (painting) and Racquel Keller (painting and mixed media).

Additional community artists participating include Barbara JoAnn Combs (painting and printmaking), Celestine Ranney-Howes (art quilts), Daria Parsa (painting and drawing), Tom Baker (ceramic sculpture, painting and mixed media) and Amanda Demos Larsen (figurative painting). Several artists are offering online shopping opportunities and some also accept commissions. The complete schedule and access information will be posted on June 4 on the Greenbelt Virtual Recreation Center at [greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://greenbeltmd.gov/recreation). To participate, guests will need an Instagram account, available for free at [instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com).

The host artists' presentations will highlight various aspects of the creative process, and guests can enjoy insights into the artists' inspiration and driving sense of purpose. For example, Corson uses the human figure to explore emotion. He will talk about a series of ceramic reliefs called *Becoming* in which heads and hands emerge from pit-fired panels. Combs creates abstract artwork to work out her feelings, responses and actions. She explains, "My four sons have me on a text thread and we discuss the pandemic and reoccurring social justice issues. It's exhausting! Creating this artwork gave me time to reflect." Her series *Elements* focuses on texture and vivid colors, using leftover paints on canvas as the base and a painting knife, large plastic comb and gift cards for the texture.

Guests can preview examples of the participating artists' work in an online exhibition. The exhibit will open on Friday, June 4. Viewers can enter through the Open Studio Tour page launching the same day at [greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://greenbeltmd.gov/recreation).

Virtual Open Studio Tours are among the ways that Greenbelt Recreation Arts has been striving to support a vibrant and mutually enriching creative community throughout the pandemic. As Combs suggests, "Let peace and curiosity lead." For more information about the spring 2021 tour, email [ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov). For information about upcoming arts programs, see the Greenbelt Recreation Summer Activity Guide available at [greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) and sign up for the Artfans e-newsletter at [greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov).

Arts programs of the City of Greenbelt are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.



Barbara JoAnn Combs works in her studio.



Self-portrait by Amanda Demos Larsen



Sculpture by Chris Corson



Chris Corson works in his studio.



Rachel Cross poses in front of her artwork.

## Dancers Present First Live Recital Since Before Covid-19

by Lesley Kash

On May 22 and 23 in the Dance Garden outside the north-east side of the Community Center, the Spring Performance Club offered Greenbelt's first live dance recital since Covid-19 struck. Angella Foster, director of Studio Dance Programs, proudly presented her student dancers ages 6 through teen who performed ballet, tap and other

innovative selections. Foster's choreography, inspired by American masters such as Alvin Ailey and Jerome Robbins, was accompanied by iconic American music. The theme America the Beautiful celebrated the resilience and generous service demonstrated by people across the nation throughout this difficult period.



From left, Miltos Michell-Samaras, Maren O'Roark and Maeve Waters are led by Elta Goldstein in "Dancing Thru the Decades."



From left, Aria Robinson, Maeve Waters, Elta Goldstein, Maren O'Roark and Miltos Michell-Samaras perform in "Dancing Thru the Decades."



From left, Miltos Michell-Samaras, Helen Sickle and Skylar Leisnham perform in "Revelations Suite."



Viola Pitts leads the Ballet Ensemble in "Stars and Stripes Forever."

- Photos by Jennifer Sterling